

TO: Federal Communications Commission

Dear Sirs,

I am writing in regard to the FCC "Notice of Proposed Rulemaking" 05-311 on "video franchising".

Our town recently concluded a franchising agreement with Comcast that will provide us with an educational channel and new broadcast equipment. As a member of our town's school committee, I am looking forward in the next few months to the first broadcasts of our meetings to the taxpayers of our town. We believe that live broadcasts and repeat broadcasts at times convenient to our town will significantly improve our town's understanding of the financial and policy issues facing our schools. We also hope to have greater public feedback between meetings to aid us in our deliberations. Both are essential to support of our schools at town meeting.

Without current video franchising rules, none of this would come to pass. And if PEG broadcasting were eliminated, we would lose the best opportunity we have to have to keep our taxpayers apprised of the issues facing our schools.

Please support local access and keep the franchising law in place.

Sincerely,
Nathanael Fortune
Vice-Chair
Whately School Committee
Whately, Massachusetts